

'Pike's Folly': Hub Producer Glows With Enthusiasm

By ALTA MALONEY

Most Bostonians would expect the equipment trucks from James A. Pike's movie company to be down at the Fish Pier, putting together a spot for a local politician to use on TV.

But a couple of years ago, Mr. Pike branched out due to a command of Travis Pike, whom he refers to as "Son No. 2." Said his son, "Dad, you got to make a picture about demolition derbies."

"DEMO DERBY" REAL SUCCESS

"Demo Derby" was, and still remains in some areas of the country, a fantastic success for a short subject, a crashing action film about "drivers who tilt at each other."

Now, carried along on the momentum of this triumph, the family has been involved in a feature-length color film, "Feelin' Good," having its New England premiere today at the downtown Paramount. X 26

The story of how it happened is the most extraordinary one of a father discovering a son.

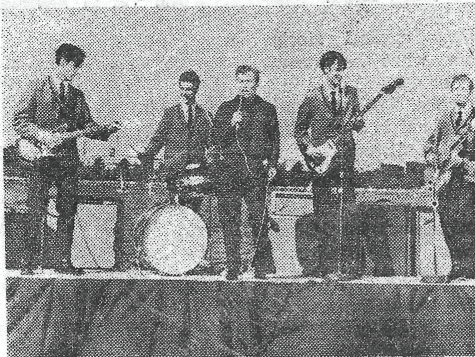
Travis, now 21, was hurt last year while he was in the service in Europe, a German army truck skidded sideways into his sport car and he afterwards spent a year and a half in the hospital.

Known in Europe as Teddy Pike, the young Newton Centre man had put on shows, singing songs he composed. In Copenhagen some 14,000 youngsters showed up to hear him at one concert.

His father had in mind doing another short film, somewhat the same as "Demo Derby," a spontaneous exposition of the "musical explosion" which has swept the country. He wanted to do it in what he calls, sort of giggling, "Cinema verite."

"A father never listens to his kids," said this father of five, "so I really didn't know how talented he was. Then when he was back at Chelsea Naval Hospital, I went to Natick High School to hear him.

"There he was with his leg in a cast, and 1200 or 1400 kids came alive when he sang. I said to myself—is that my kid up there making all this. It was



Charles Background

TRAVIS PIKE and the Brattle Street Esplanade on the Esplanade of Charles River in a scene from the locally produced wide-screen, color film, "Feelin' Good," having its exclusive New England premiere today at the downtown Paramount.

a revelation that he could turn them on like this."

THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED

So Mr. Pike took some of the 30 or 40 songs Travis had written down to New York to the "tunesmiths," and "they said they were good. That's when we decided to make 'Feelin' Good.'"

Glowing with enthusiasm by the way the color and the Boston views used as background come out in the film, Mr. Pike declared, "I want to make films here in New England—it's a passion.

"Look at the scenery we've got, everything's right here, and there's a lot of talent here if you get out and find it.

"When we were mixing the film in New York, there was a studio man there looking at it. He finally said, 'You know, Darryl Zanuck is going to see this picture and he's going to say where does this guy Pike get the money to build sets like this.'

"We want young people to like this film. It's something different—it takes off at angles to itself.

"At home we call it Pike's Folly. If the picture doesn't make the scene, it's the most expensive home movie ever made."